UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Monday, March 23, 2026

Straws in the Wind - Part 290

From the LA Times: *College Republicans have sued the University of Florida's president on free speech grounds over the school's decision to deactivate its chapter after being notified that at least one member engaged in an antisemitic act.*

The University of Florida College Republicans filed the lawsuit... in federal court against interim president Donald Landry, asking a judge to stop the enforcement of the school's decision and to restore access to facilities on the Gainesville campus. "The University of Florida punitively deactivated and shut down the UFCR, in response to alleged viewpoints expressed by a member of UFCR, and in an effort to silence the club and chill its future speech," the group said in its lawsuit...

When the Florida Federation of College Republicans is ready, the university will assist with reactivating the campus chapter under new student leadership, UF officials said in a statement. The deactivation wasn't based on any university policy or rule, and it was only based on a member's expression of a viewpoint "which was alleged to be antisemitic," the lawsuit said...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2026-03-17/college-republicans-sue-university-of-floridas-president-over-deactivation-of-its-chapter.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, U of Florida

Averted Strike: Contract Now Ratified

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW; Winter 2026
- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
- Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall
- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 50. When Will UCOP Stop Hurting UC Campuses? - 3/24/2026
- A Joint MESA-AAUP Report Shows the Corruption of Anti-Semitism Charges (Guest Post) - 3/23/2026
- Liner Note 49. University Voice Under a Necro-President - 3/9/2026

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- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

From the Bruin: *Three United Auto Workers units ratified contracts with the UC on Friday, averting a strike after months of bargaining. The three units – UAW Local 4811's academic student employees unit, Research and Public Service Professionals-UAW and Student Services and Advising Professionals-UAW – represent more than 40,000 UC academic and research employees, including teaching assistants. The ratification marks SSAP-UAW and RPSP-UAW's first contracts with the University, while UAW Local 4811's previous contract expired Feb. 28.*

About 89% of academic student employees across the UC – and 85% at UCLA – voted to ratify the contract, as well as 98% of RPSPs and 99% of SSAPs, according to an email sent to UAW Local 4811 members. The units reached tentative agreements with the University on March 13 – just one day after their "last chance" demonstrations, which they held across UC campuses...

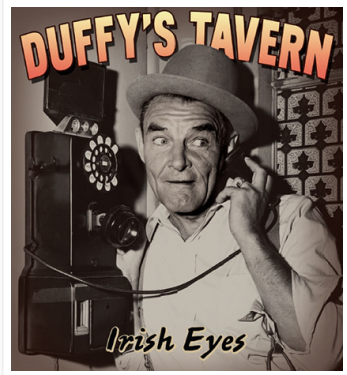
Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/03/20/united-auto-workers-units-finalize-agreements-with-uc-avoid-strike.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: strikes, UC

Sunday, March 22, 2026

He ain't here... (for budget explanations) - Part 2



In our previous analysis of former UCLA CFO Agostini's budget book legacy, we noted that without having Agostini around to answer questions, there are problems of interpretation.* Exactly what was included in revenues and expenditures of the itemized administrative units is not clear. The most we can do (and we will!) is to look at the various micro units he specified to get a sense of what Agostini was worried about before he uttered the Very Bad Words that led to his rapid termination.

(It is also unclear whether Agostini's Very Bad Words were the ones indicating that past financial statements of UCLA were misleading or the words attributing the misleading financial statements to bad management by folks who are still in place in Murphy Hall. But that is another matter.)

Moving on, we now have a new puzzle. The Academic Senate released a report last Friday by the Council on Budget and Planning (CPB) containing a new fiscal picture of UCLA's situation for 2024-05 (last year) and 2025-05 (the current year).**

In this blog post, we compare the data in the two reports - Agostini's budget book and the CPB analysis - with the major finding being that the two are incompatible. Without Agostini, we can't be sure exactly what revenues and expenditures he included in the totals for the various units he itemized (and which we totaled in our prior post). But CPB analyzed only what are termed "discretionary" revenues and expenditures ("sources" and "uses" in its terminology), apparently a much narrower category than Agostini's. CPB's definition is below:

"*Sources reflect discretionary funds including general funds supplemented with indirect cost recovery (ICR) related funds and investment income. Other core funds related to Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST), Self-Supporting Degree Program Tuition (SSDPT) are not included. Athletics portion here is only fraction of expenses covered by the central budget including a subsidy, debt service, and Big Ten related fees. Source: Based on updated information provided by interim CFO on March 16, 2026.*"***

Below is a table comparing the Agostini and CPB figures:

Topics

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Dalia Dassa Kaye of the UCLA

$billions	Agostini	CPB	
2025-26			2025-26
Revenue			Revenue
Total	$ 7.5	$ 1.8	Total
GF (19900)	$ 1.3	$ 0.7	State Allocation
Expenditure			Expenditure
Total	$ 7.8	$ 2.1	Total
GF (19900)	$ 1.3	-	na
2024-05			2024-05
Revenue			Revenue
Total	$ 6.6	$ 1.9	Total
GF (19900)	$ 1.3	$ 0.7	State Allocation
Expenditure			Expenditure
Total	$ 7.3	$ 2.1	Total
GF (19900)	$ 1.3	-	na
2023-24			2023-24
Revenue			Revenue
Total	$ 6.6	na	Total
GF (19900)	$ 1.2	na	State Allocation
Expenditure		na	Expenditure
Total	$ 7.0	na	Total
GF (19900)	$ 1.2	-	na

Note: GF = General Fund

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The main takeaway is that the CPB's numbers are much smaller - because of the limited "discretionary" definition, than Agostini's. We can't directly compare Agostini's definition with those presented in the prior UCLA financial statements that he said were misleading. But in 2022-23, UCLA reported revenues of $11.2 billion and expenditures of $11.7 billion, i.e., numbers much bigger than Agostini's for the following year. So UCLA was using a still more broad definition (including hospital revenues) through 2022-23 in its financial statements.

In a subsequent post, as we previously promised, we will examine what can be learned from Agostini's unit-level data. But it might be useful for the Academic Senate and CPB to examine various categories of revenues and expenditures ranging from the totals that seemed to be the basis of the "misleading" prior financial statements down to what CPB terms as "discretionary." As a practical matter, UCLA would likely feel obligated to deal with situations in which technically independent organizations couldn't cover their liabilities. Athletics is roughly in that category. It isn't supposed to be draining other campus funds, but it nevertheless is.

Now, you can argue that Athletics is not really an independent organization. But if that example doesn't work for you, consider this one:

From Wikipedia: *During the 1980s, the association [ASUCLA] was financially successful. However, by the mid-1990s, ASUCLA had entered a financial crisis in part due to the costs of maintaining its infrastructure including the student union buildings. The Board responded by firing the executive director for financial mismanagement and hiring a turnaround firm. In 1996, due to financial issues and a failed student fee referendum, ASUCLA secured a $20 million loan from the University on the condition it prepare a five-year forecast with its annual budgets and prohibit presidents of the undergraduate students association and the graduate students association from serving on the board; the loan specified that a failure to do so would entitle the UCLA Chancellor to appoint additional representatives of the campus administration to the Board and eliminate the student-majority. The Board also responded to the mid-90's financial crisis by delegating additional responsibilities to the association's professional staff.*

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associated_Students_of_the_University_of_California,_Los_Angeles.

The fact that if, say, the parking folks, or the hospitality folks, or the hospitals, or whatever organization got into financial trouble, some kind of bailout would likely be arranged by UCLA. And if UCLA couldn't do it, systemwide UC and the Regents would intervene.

===

*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations.html.

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**We have added the CPB report to our UCLA budget document collection on the Internet Archive at:

https://dn720904.ca.archive.org/0/items/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026/UCLA%20Council%20on%20Planning%20and%20Budget%20%20Updated%20Report_%20Analysis%20of%20UCLA%20Campus%20Structural%20Deficit%203-20-2026.pdf.

The full set of documents in the Archive is at:

https://archive.org/details/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026.

***It's not clear why supplementary tuition is excluded. The professional programs that have such tuition are presumably able to spend it as they like.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 289

From the Orlando Sentinel: *A bill allowing professors and staff at Florida's universities and colleges to train as "guardians" and carry guns on campus was approved by the Legislature on Thursday as an effort to increase safety. The bill (HB 757) expands the K-12 guardian program created after the deadly shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018 that left 17 people dead. Republican lawmakers pushed its expansion to the state's postsecondary institutions after the shooting at Florida State University last April that left two dead.*

The House approved the final bill 88-20 on Thursday, just one day after the Senate passed the measure. It will now head to Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has already signaled his support. His December budget proposal included $6 million to implement the program at the state's 12 universities and 28 colleges. The program would be optional for schools, and the college or university president would appoint the guardian. Guardians would need hours of firearms training before they could carry guns on their campuses...

Full story at https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2026/03/12/florida-approves-guardian-program-expansion-for-colleges-universities/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Florida State University, politics

Saturday, March 21, 2026

UC-Berkeley Settles Antisemitism Lawsuit

From the LA Times: *UC Berkeley on Thursday said it would revise campus nondiscrimination policies, prohibit student organization bylaws from banning Zionist speakers and pay $1 million in legal fees to settle a lawsuit by two Jewish groups over alleged antisemitic incidents following protests in response to the Hamas-Israel war in 2023. In addition, UC Berkeley said it would revamp an online nondiscrimination page to clarify that it considers an antisemitism definition promoted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance when evaluating discrimination complaints...*

UC Berkeley has considered the IHRA definition since 2024, based on Department of Education guidelines. What is new is that the campus has agreed to refer to the definition on its Office for

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the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination web page. The settlement is the latest among UC campuses that have closed out lawsuits and civil rights complaints stemming from contentious pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli protests that reached a crescendo in 2024 with pro-Palestinian encampments at all nine undergraduate campuses and a violent attack against pro-Palestinian activists at UCLA in April of that year... In a statement, UC Berkeley spokesperson Dan Mogulof said the settlement built upon work already underway...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-03-19/uc-berkeley-settles-brandeis-center-antisemitism-lawsuit.

Note: The Daily Cal attributes the decision to settle to the Regents in a closed-door session last Wednesday. While such a sequence is reasonable to assume, since the session was closed-door, it is unclear how that information could be known with certainty. See:

https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/uc-berkeley-settles-with-brandeis-center-over-allegations-of-antisemitism/article_2915c2a5-6163-445d-9407-ba2a8b8d9dfa.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, UC Regents, UC-Berkeley

Straws in the Wind - Part 288

From Inside Higher Ed: *Utah representative Mike Petersen was inspired to introduce new legislation after receiving a call from his daughter, a master's student in social work in Louisiana. She was disturbed that a professor had asked the class to write to a local lawmaker in favor of LGBTQ rights. "She … said, 'Dad, I just got told I needed to write a letter to my legislator advocating for some policies that don't align with me,'" Peterson said. She didn't raise her concerns to the instructor "because she was afraid."*

Petersen has since sponsored a bill, passed by the Utah Legislature this month, that would allow students in the state to opt out of some coursework that conflicts with their religious beliefs. The legislation now awaits the governor's signature. The bill creates a process by which students at Utah public colleges and universities could request to skip upcoming assignments for a mandatory class or major requirement that go against a "sincerely held religious or conscience belief." For example, a student could ask in advance to opt out of watching a sexually explicit film required on a course syllabus. A professor who denies a student's request would have to explain the decision to a "neutral arbiter" assigned by the university, according to the bill. That person would assess whether nixing the assignment—or subbing in an alternative—counts as a "fundamental alteration" to the class's learning objectives.

The bill also states that professors can't "compel a student to publicly take or communicate a specified position," such as requiring them to write a letter to a lawmaker or publish an article espousing a particular viewpoint. The bill leaves it to the Utah Higher Education Board to come up with more specific guidance on how these policies should be applied and requires the board to report back to the Legislature on how implementation goes...

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Contributors

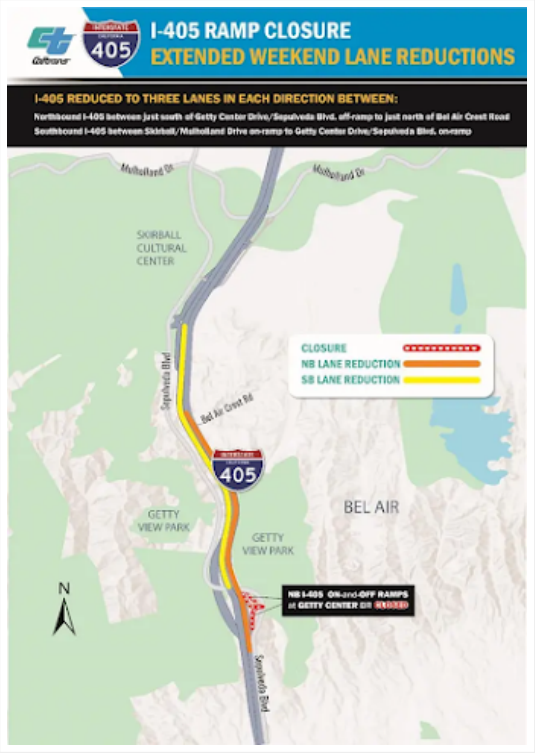
- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/state-policy/2026/03/16/utah-could-allow-conscientious-objection-class-assignments.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, politics

Traffic Squeeze in Sepulveda Pass This Weekend


I-405 RAMP CLOSURE
EXTENDED WEEKEND LANE REDUCTIONS
I-405 REDUCED TO THREE LANES IN EACH DIRECTION BETWEEN:
Northbound I-405 between just south of Getty Center Drive/Sepulveda Blvd. off-ramp to just north of Bel Air Crest Road
Southbound I-405 between Skirball/Mulholland Drive on-ramp to Getty Center Drive/Sepulveda Blvd. on-ramp
Mulholland Dr
SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER
CLOSURE
NB LANE REDUCTION
SB LANE REDUCTION
Sepulveda Blvd
Bel Air Crest Rd
405
BEL AIR
GETTY VIEW PARK
GETTY VIEW PARK
N
NB I-405 ON-and-OFF RAMPS
at GETTY CENTER DR
Sepulveda Blvd

From Santa Monica Patch: *Traffic will be impacted on the 405 Freeway and nearby roads this weekend when construction will shut down several lanes on both sides of the interstate near the Sepulveda Pass. The freeway will be reduced to three lanes in each direction in the area of the Getty Center and Mulholland Drive from 10 p.m. Friday, March 20 through 5 a.m. Monday, March 23. Additionally, two ramps will be closed. The planned closures are as follows:*

Northbound 405 Freeway

The interstate will be reduced to three lanes between a point just south of the Getty Center Drive/Sepulveda Boulevard off-ramp and a point just north of Bel Air Crest Road. The Getty Center Drive on- and off-ramps will be closed.

Southbound 405 Freeway

Reduced to three lanes between the Skirball Center Drive/Mulholland Drive on-ramp and the Getty Center Drive/Sepulveda Boulevard on-ramp...

Full story at https://patch.com/california/santamonica/s/k53rg/mini-carmageddon-what-to-know-about-the-weekend-long-405-closure-beginning-friday.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: traffic, UCLA

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